



Travellers Tales
Bernard Ollis
The Anthony Gallery

Friday 17 January - Sunday 22 June

The oil pastels included in this exhibition were created during various painting trips to Paris over the past 3 years. I worked in many locations around the city, bringing the results back to my Montmartre studio. After this, they accompany me back to my Sydney studio for reflection and completion.

I usually make initial drawings on the spot, also taking photographs; then develop the idea further using Swiss oil pastels. Oil pastel is a very direct medium, allowing me to work without brushes, jars, bottles and rags, which can be an impediment in a crowded city. I can make rapid notes and references, but most importantly of all, transport the work in a tube back home.

Why Paris, you may ask? I still find the streets fascinating and beautiful, therefore giving me endless possibilities to respond to back in the studio. From the details of a wrought iron balustrade to a purposely twisting row of lampposts, or an art nouveau window next to some elaborate carvings on a bridge. All this is fair game to be intensified, twisted and exaggerated.

These images are not trying to be either photographically or topographically accurate. I do not see them as tourist pictures. They record evocative moments and personal feelings about a revered city - a celebration of a bygone aesthetic reinvented from an outsider's eyes.

Bernard Ollis, September 2013

Bernard Ollis is represented by 19 Karen, Contemporary Artspace, Gold Coast; NG Art Gallery, Sydney; Buratti Fine Art, Perth; Falls Gallery, Blue Mountains; and 12, Auckland, NZ.

Bernard Ollis
Rue Damrémont view 2011
oil pastel on paper
76 x 150cm